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 Espionage

COSMO READS THE NEW BOOKS

by Sandra Hochman

□ Two things I like to anticipate: new friendships and new books. This spring I'd like to share with you—as, I hope, a new friend—books which have turned on my imagination . . . books that I think are worth spending hours reading zestily and then perhaps going back to read again. To begin with I recommend J. Bernard Hutton's *Women in Espionage* (Macmillan; \$5.95), a nonfiction delight which examines the role of female secret agents at work in Eastern and Western societies—replete with marvelous pictures, descriptions of the latest techniques deployed and equipment used, and vividly recounted case histories. What I adored most in *Espionage* is all the detailed information about the education of a spy. Did you know that in Russia there are schools set up to completely duplicate the environments of other countries? That a Soviet woman being groomed to serve as a foreign agent in, say, Great Britain will be indoctrinated not only with the English language and diet but will also learn English nursery rhymes, songs, customs and manners, even how to identify British medals and uniforms? The education of a spy is in a sense training a person to live a life within a life. Now use your fantasy, as I did mine, to imagine how useful this book might be as a manual for women in training to catch a lover—to be, as Anaïs Nin titled one of her novels, *A Spy in the House of Love*—for we all know by now that we try to change ourselves in order to “pass” as the kind of person our loved one desires. A futile exercise, maybe, since our “cover” is usually blown . . . but the suggestion is something to think about as you pick up this strange, well-written volume and read it on many levels—not least of all as an exciting female James Bond adventure. For those of us who grew up on comic books in which the juicy spy work always went to the men, *Espionage* is a great antidote.